



Advancing the Clean Energy Future

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**Acadia center testimony in opposition to L.D. 495 “An Act to Require Rules Designed to Reduce Climate Change to Include Estimates of the Reduction in Adverse Climate Effects and of the Cost to Consumers”**

February 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am the Senior Policy Advocate and Maine Program Director for the Acadia Center, a Rockport, Maine based organization that advocates in Maine and throughout New England to lower energy costs and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. L.D. 495 requires the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), when considering rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to issue (1) an estimate, calculated using sound scientific information and methods, of the level of adverse effects on the climate that will be prevented by the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and (2) the costs associated with the reduction in greenhouse gases, including the impact on the prices of gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity, heating oil and propane.

L.D. 495 is unnecessary and excessively burdensome. DEP already analyzes the costs and benefits of rulemaking consistent with State law and also gathers input from the public in the process. Moreover, any “estimate” called for in the bill would likely result in an understandably frustrated DEP, which is already overburdened. For instance, how can DEP realistically author a scientific estimate of “the [GHG rulemaking] impact on the prices of gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity, heating oil, and propane?” The fluctuating price of these fuels is caused by business and market conditions, not rulemaking on GHG emissions.

If enacted, this bill would increase DEP workload and costs. All this when there is no evidence that DEP and its skilled staff are not already diligently considering and seeking input from the public on the costs and the benefits of GHG rulemaking. Acadia Center urges the Committee to reject L.D. 495.

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